Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, he must yield at least once or twice.

President: I shall allow one or two members to put questions after Mr. Truscott has finished his speech.

Mr. C. N. Thuppan Namputiri (*Travancore Jenmies*): ആ പാലം ചീഫ് എൻജനീയർ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Does the Chief Engineer contemplate to do anything at least next year for the Kartikapalli Kayankulam road?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Sir, I have that road in mind; but I would ask the Honourable member to submit that with his requirements to the leader of his party as already mentioned at the beginning of my speech.

The Demand was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon (*Electrical Engineer to Government*). Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 44,27,686 under Demand VIII—Electricity and Telephone.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND IX—WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT.

Vastuvidya Kusala C. Balakrishna Rao (*Water Works and Drainage Engineer to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 25,82,640 under Demand IX—Water Works and Drainage Department.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: With regard to the work done by the Drainage Department, I wish to bring to the attention of the Drainage Engineer the present undue delay in filling up the excavations that they make. In various parts of the town, roads have been dug up, and even after the work has been finished and the drainage pipes have been laid, such excavations are not filled up; and wherever they have been filled up, it has not been done properly. I want to bring this fact to the notice of the Chief Engineer for water works.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Sir, I support the demand, but I would be failing in my duty, representing as I do the Trivandrum town also, if I do not point out the difficulties caused to vehicle traffic and to the pedestrians by the irresponsible

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[Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair.]

way in which roads are being dug up by the Water Works Department at one time succeeded by the Drainage Department now. I hope the Water Works and Drainage Engineer will give his considered attention to this matter.

Mr. M. S. Anirudhan: I oppose the Demand. Those who have secured the B. Sc., degree, in engineering of the Benares University are not being encouraged by the Water Works Department. Sir, these young men went to Benares for the training after being selected by the Government. It is therefore regrettable to find that their qualifications are not being recognised by the Water Works Engineering Department.

Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib: In supporting the Demand, I would also like to refer to the inconvenience caused to the public by the unsatisfactory way in which diggings and backfillings are done by the Water Works and the Drainage Department. Many of the roads in the town have been dug up, but have not been filled up even after an unduly long time; and, where they have been filled up by one department, very soon, another department again digs them open and leaves them like that for months together. Sir, this is not the first time that this matter is brought to the notice of the Government. I know the complaint was made last year also. Still, sufficient attention does not seem to have been bestowed on the matter.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: Sir, I wish to make a few observations for the guidance of the Drainage Engineer. We have found, especially in the matter of taking the drainage line, that, on representations from influential and rich persons, lines once fixed are changed to save the properties of such rich men and are diverted along the properties of poor persons who have no influence or position. A nominal sum is paid to such poor people and they are evicted from their buildings. Sir, such a policy cannot be countenanced with any amount of toleration.

I would also suggest that, as far as possible, the drainage must be taken along poramboke lands so that acquisition charges may be minimised; and, in thickly populated places, buildings, which though small afford a means of livelihood to the owners or the occupants, tea shops and other business centers for instance, be left in tact, as far as possible.

Vasthu Vidya Kusala C. Balakrishna Rao: Sir, honourable member Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai referred to the delay in the filling up of the Sewer trenches made in connection with the Drainage Project and also said that, wherever that filling has been done, it has not been done properly. Sir, the difficulty

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is this. We cannot fill up the trenches immediately the sewers are laid and jointed. They have to be tested before back-filling. In filling up, they are consolidated in layers by rammers and the surfacing is then put on temporarily. If there is a rainfall soon afterwards, the filling as in the case of all artificial filling naturally subsides. We re-do it twice or even thrice and ultimately restore the road. Naturally, all these take some time. That is inevitable in the nature of the work,

Honourable member Mr. Kesavan Nayar also complained that a good deal of inconvenience was being caused to traffic on account of the roads being cut up. That is, unfortunately, an evil which goes with the laying of water mains and sewers. But, we are trying to minimise the inconvenience by leaving a fair way for traffic to pass, and we prevent accidents by fencing wherever necessary. We do not absolutely block any road unless we have to cross a road in laying the sewers.

Hononourable member Mr. Anirudhan complained that the B. Scs., in engineering of the Benares University were not being recruited to my department. Sir, the B. Scs. of the Benares University are qualified chiefly in Electrical Engineering, whereas I require hands qualified in Civil Engineering mostly and also a few hands in mechanical Engineering. That is the reason for my not being able to encourage the B. Scs. of the Benares University.

Mr. M. S. Anirudhan: Is the honorable member aware that B. Scs. of the Benares University have been appointed in the Water Works Departments elsewhere?

Vasthu Vidya Kusala C. Balakrishna Rao: I am not aware, Sir.

Honourable member Mr. Abdur Rahiman Sahib also referred to the inconvenience caused by the delay in filling. I have already answered that point.

Honourable member Mr. Elankath spoke about the alignment of sewers, and said that, very often, just to oblige influential people, we alter the alignment once proposed. In making a *design* for alignment, we take care to see that substantial property is not interfered with as far as possible. In actual execution, when we find that the alignment is likely to affect a small portion of any building, which by altering the alignment a little bit without the design being interfered with could be saved, we do it. That kind of adjustment is done with a view to remove unnecessary and avoidable hardships. I may assure the House that, in doing this, we do not make any difference between influential and non-influential people between the rich people and the poor people. The same kind of treatment is accorded to all alike

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Mr. K. R. Elankath: May I ask whether the department has had the necessity of digging a pit more than once?

Vasthu Vidya Kusala C. Balakishna Rao: I do not quite understand what particular portion the honourable member refers to.

Honourable member Mr. Elankath also suggested that the alignment of sewers should better be along porambokes so that of water-mains, we take the principal mains generally along ridges where most of the roads tie whereas in the case of sewers we have to follow the valleys in laying our intercepting sewers so that these may collect the sewage brought by the main and branch sewers from the residential quarters on the slopes of the valley. In the valleys, we do not find many porambokes nor can we divert or twist the alignment in a crooked manner to pass through every small bit of poramboke that can be found anywhere in the valley. These sewers are to work by the mere force of gravity and not by pumping pressure. Therefore we have to adhere to suitable levels in aligning the sewers, and porambokes with such suitable levels are not always available along the alignment. That is the reason why we cannot always take the sewers along porambokes.

DEMAND X—MEDICAL.

Mr. James Simpson (*Darbar Physician*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 9,40,108 under Demand X—Medical.

Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib: In opposing the motion, I beg to bring to the notice of the authorities the following points.

Firtly, there is very great delay in the supply of medicines to the hospitals and dispensaries in the mofussil. Sir, it will be admitted on all hands that this is the most important need of the tax payer. If medicines are not supplied in time and are not made available to the patients when they really require them, the consequences will be disastrous. I would therefore request the Darbar Physician to bestow greater attention to this matter.

Secondly, I wish to emphasise the necessity for encouraging Muslim medical graduates by appointing them in the department. Till about a few years ago, we had not the good fortune of having even one medical graduate belonging to our community. Very recently, three or four young Muslims have got themselves qualified for the medical profession. I am sorry to say that even the first among them is still only an honorary assistant surgeon. He does not draw any pay. I would request the Government and the Darbar Physician to consider the claims of the few Muslim medical

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